

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 762

S. P. 255

In Senate, February 11, 1971

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator MacLeod of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Providing Funds for Environmental Growth Chambers for
University of Maine at Orono.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Appropriation. There is appropriated to the University of Maine from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$700,000 for the construction of environmental growth chambers or greenhouse at Orono. The moneys shall be expended under the direction and supervision of the Director of Public Improvements.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The first effort to obtain a new facility started about 1947. They have been at various positions on the Orono Campus priority list since that time. When Deering Hall was built (1949-50) it was known that the current greenhouses would be in the shade of Deering a good part of the year (November through February). This lack of sunlight was passed off as insignificant because a new environmental complex would be forthcoming.

Currently the greenhouse complex is used to do research in the following commodity areas: Potatoes, blueberries, forage and corn and forestry. In addition, some members of our department are using the greenhouses to carry on work in the pollution area.

The work in forest fertilization and pollution are the newest uses being made of the current facilities. With the current interest in environmental problems, these 2 uses probably have great public appeal.